

Aden ratifies sentence on ex-leader

ADEN (R) — South Yemen ratified on Sunday death sentences on former President Ali Nasser Mohammad and 11 supporters convicted of high treason, the Aden News Agency reported. But death sentences on a former interior minister, Mohammad Abdullah Al Batani, and 24 others were commuted to 15 years in jail. The agency said the higher presidential council made the decisions at a meeting chaired by President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas. Mr. Nasser Mohammad and thousands of supporters fled to North Yemen after he was ousted in bloody street fighting between party factions in January last year. Only five of the people now under sentence of death are being held in South Yemen. They were convicted after a mass trial of 108 people, 64 of them in custody, on charges including high treason, terrorism and sabotage. North Yemen and several other Arab states had appealed to the Aden government to commute the sentences.

Volume 12 Number 3665

AMMAN, MONDAY DECEMBER 28, 1987, JAMADA AL AWWAL 7, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King sends good wishes to Nepal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent a cable to King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal congratulating him on his country's national day. In his cable, King Hussein expressed happiness and continued good health to King Birendra and wished the Nepalese people further progress and prosperity.

Senate meets tomorrow to discuss budget

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) will hold a regular session on Tuesday to discuss Jordan's 1988 fiscal budget, which was unanimously endorsed by the Lower House of Parliament 10 days ago. The Senate's Financial Committee had completed discussing the JD 1,075 billion budget and has submitted its final report on its findings to the senators.

Abdul Meguid to visit Moscow

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union next February, according to a report carried by the Egyptian magazine October. The magazine, in its recent edition, said that Dr. Abdul Meguid's visit to Moscow would follow a trip to the United States next January.

Sharaa returns home from Riyadh

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa returned on Sunday from a brief visit to Saudi Arabia where he gave a message from President Hafez Al Assad to King Fahd, an official statement said. The statement gave no details of the message. Mr. Sharaa went to Tehran last Tuesday and handed a message from Mr. Assad to Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

Velayati holds talks in Libya

BEIRUT (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks on Sunday with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, the official Libyan news agency JANA said. JANA gave no details of the talks in Tripoli. Mr. Velayati arrived in Tripoli on Saturday on a three-day visit. IRNA said Mr. Velayati also had talks with Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah Azzouz Al Tahri.

Moscow lodges protest with Iran

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry summoned an Iranian diplomat Sunday to protest an attack on the Soviet consulate in Esfahan by Afghan refugees. TASS said. The Afghans were conducting a demonstration to mark the eighth anniversary of the Soviet military drive into Afghanistan. TASS said the Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian chargé d'affaires to receive a protest about a "piratic attack" on the Soviet consulate by "a group of rampaging thugs among Afghan counter-revolutionaries living in Iran."

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

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King: Moscow talks enhanced bilateral ties, mutual understanding

His Majesty, in interview with Izvestia, lauds Soviet support for Arab causes and outlines achievements of Amman summit conference

MOSCOW (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that his recent visit to the Soviet Union and talks with Soviet leaders have greatly contributed to strengthening Soviet-Jordanian relations and enhanced mutual confidence.

In an interview published in Saturday's issue of Soviet newspaper Izvestia, the King said that prospects for further strengthening of relations between Amman and Moscow were "unlimited."

The King expressed his satisfaction with the Soviet support for the just causes of the Arab people and said that efforts were currently being exerted towards improving inter-Arab relations and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

The King told the newspaper that concrete progress was made during the Amman summit conference in the way of improving inter-Arab relations, particularly Syrian-Iraqi ties.

Following are major excerpts from the interview:

Question: The recent Arab summit conference in Amman has adopted important political decisions concerning a settlement to the Middle East problem and the Iran-Iraq conflict. What are the



measures being taken to achieve these decisions?

Answer: The Amman conference discussed many problems that concern the Arabs, including the Palestinian problem and the Iran-Iraq conflict. We have given a clear and accurate picture of our

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq welcomes U.N. statement, urges punitive measures on Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq called on Sunday for punitive measures against Tehran to force it to accept a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

Welcoming as a good step a U.N. Security Council statement issued on Thursday and dismissed by Iran, Iraq's Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said:

"The only reply for the Iranian attitude is to accelerate measures to punish the aggressors (Iranians) and avoid giving them new opportunities to continue their aggression."

The Security Council on Thursday said it was determined to consider further steps to ensure compliance with its July 20 resolution ordering a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict.

Tehran the next day condemned the statement, saying it was the wrong way to end the conflict. It repeated its demand that Iraq be branded as "aggressor" before Tehran would accept a ceasefire.

Al Thawra said Sunday: "Whilst the international community had agreed once again to implement Security Council Resolution 598 (ordering a ceasefire), the Iranian rulers repeated their conditions to end the war and rejection of the resolution."

The Security Council statement

issued on Thursday, echoed a warning contained in the five-month-old resolution 598. The statement said: "The members of the Security Council declare their determination, in accordance with operative paragraph 10 of Resolution 598 (1987), to consider further steps to ensure compliance with this resolution."

It reiterated the council members' determination to end the conflict as soon as possible and reaffirmed their commitment to the ceasefire resolution "as an integrated whole."

Iraq has insisted on priority for the resolution's sixth paragraph, providing for an inquiry panel to determine responsibility for the war.

Iraq wants the resolution's provisions implemented in sequential order, beginning with the first paragraph demanding an immediate ceasefire and mutual troops withdrawals to internationally recognised boundaries.

The council statement also reaffirmed that the implementation of the resolution was the "only basis for a comprehensive, just, honourable and durable settlement of the conflict."

It expressed support for the efforts of the secretary general to secure implementation of the resolution, as well as of an outline plan for achieving this that he discussed during his talks with the two sides.

The council asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to continue his efforts.

Syrian tanks get Soviet armour-plating

LONDON (AP) — Syria's Soviet-built T-72 tanks have been equipped with sophisticated armour-plating copied from British tanks, greatly increasing their chances of surviving in a battle, according to a published report.

The weekly Sunday Telegraph newspaper said the tanks, deployed along the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, are covered with reactive armour. Such armour explodes when struck by a shell or missile, dissipating the impact on the tank's hull. The newspaper said the first reactive armour-plating was used on British tanks.

British Centurion tanks equipped with it which had been sold to Israel were captured by Syria in the early days of the 1982 Lebanon war and sent immediately to the Soviet Union, where the technology was copied, the report said.

Ship attacked off Beirut after Israeli interception

BEIRUT (R) — A cargo ship came under heavy fire after being intercepted by Israeli gunboats off the southern Lebanon coast, shipping sources said on Sunday.

They said an Israeli navy patrol intercepted the 488-ton Inge Webb early on Saturday as it headed from Beirut to either the port of Sidon or of Tyre, the Lloyds report said. The ship was now in Beirut port, it said.

In recent years, the Israeli navy has intercepted several ships in the Mediterranean, sometimes taking them to Israeli ports, with the declared aim of preventing seaborne guerrilla attacks.

On Nov. 6, Israeli navy patrols intercepted a Lebanese cargo ship off the southern port of Tyre and arrested a Lebanese businessman on board. He was released six weeks later.

In January, Israeli gunboats stopped a Cypriot passenger ship as it sailed from the Cypriot port of Larnaca to the Lebanese port of Jounieh.

Lloyds shipping intelligence said the Inge Webb was intercepted by the Israeli navy about 19 kilometres south of Beirut and ordered to return there.

As it turned the ship came under fire from machine-guns and heavier weapons which punched holes in the hull and bridge, the Lloyds report said. The ship was now in Beirut port, it said.

He said it was not clear whether the Israeli opened fire on the vessel, which was carrying containers.

A Sudanese sailor at Beirut port told Reuters a boat docked there had been hit "with something bigger than bullets on the side exactly above the pipes of the hydraulic system... it had semi-serious damage."

Israelis deny water and power to Palestinians and besiege camps Military courts begin trial of detained Arabs

Combined agency despatches

already been jailed for between one and twelve months.

THE ISRAELI authorities on Sunday followed up their army clampdown on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with punitive measures against towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza.

Reports reaching Amman said the Israeli authorities were enforcing measures aimed at undermining the steadfastness of the Palestinians against the occupation. These measures included cutting-off water and power supply from houses, mosques and stores.

However, the Palestinians have resorted to collecting rainwater and using water from artesian wells and candles to counter the Israeli move, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The Israeli army on Sunday

detained another 100 Palestinians.

The army admitted that it had summoned a number of Israeli judges specialised in penalties to assist military judges in preparing the files of all Palestinians who were detained during the past two weeks of demonstrations. The army said Friday over 1,000 people were detained but Arab reports put the figure at over 2,500.

Israeli military courts on Sunday started the trials of a number of Palestinians accused of taking part in the wave of protests.

Many other Palestinians have

asked not to be named, told Reuters.

The camp is home to 65,000 Palestinian refugees.

The relief worker said he had been barred by the Israelis from his routine work of providing hot meals to children aged six and seven and milk to pregnant and nursing mothers although he had not been barred from entering the camp.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinian women from refugee camps continued a hunger-strike in protest against the inhuman Israeli treatment of the Arab prisoners.

Israel Television on Saturday evening said the Israeli army was conducting "operations" inside the Jabalya refugee camp, which was sealed-off by the Israeli authorities three weeks ago. Israeli soldiers were banning the entry of any food supplies to the area and denying access to and from the camp, the television said.

On Saturday evening, the Israeli army imposed a curfew on the Turkana refugee camp after renewed demonstrations there. They also closed off the entrances to Bureij refugee camp.

United Nations officials also expressed concern over the situation of Palestinian refugees living in the Gaza Strip.

A U.N. relief official said the Jabalya camp was suffering from acute food shortages as a result of the curfew imposed by the Israeli army.

"There is no bread. People are very desperate. They are running out of food," the worker, who

(Continued on page 3)

Fahd accuses Iran of expansionist plans and adding to Israeli threat

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on Sunday accused Iran of pursuing territorial ambitions in the region and of seeking to export revolutionary ideology by force, adding to the threat the Arab World faced from Israel.

King Fahd's statement came as he and other leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met behind closed doors for a second day to discuss diplomatic action and a combined military strategy to deter Iranian attacks on their coastlines and oil tanker routes.

In a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency, the king said the leaders were "hearing and seeing with all pride the uprising of their brethren in occupied Arab Palestine and... (their) heroic resistance against Israeli terrorism."

King Fahd made the comments on the second day of a four-day summit of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). He serves as the alliance's chairman for the coming year.

The GCC includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

Two weeks of protests left at least 22 Palestinians killed in clashes with Israeli forces on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army said it had arrested over 1,000 Palestinians in connection with the protests. Palestinian sources put the arrest total at about 2,500.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat reportedly sent a message to the summit Sunday vowing that the uprising will "continue unrelentingly, in wave after wave, until the occupation ends and Holy Jerusalem is liberated as capital of the free Palestinian state."

The message was issued at the PLO headquarters in Tunisia and distributed by Gulf wire services.

King Fahd described the Palestinian revolt as "categoric rejection of occupation and determination to resist it by all means."

"We all hail the steadfastness of the dear Palestinian people and its resistance to the occupation and we reaffirm that we stand by it and pray to God for mercy for its martyrs," the king said.

The crew put out a fire and damage was believed to be minor, the sources said. Reporters who flew over the vessel counted 23 small holes in the superstructure and hull.

The U.S. and British navies earlier joined forces to rescue the crew of a blazing South Korean freighter, the 19,682-tonne Hyundai No. 7, after an Iranian raid.

It was the second rescue mission of its kind this month and the shipping sources said it reflected the growing involvement of West-

Mubarak to visit 6 Gulf Arab states in January

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman in January at the invitation of the leaders of those countries. Information Minister Saifat Al Sherif said Sunday.

The visit comes after nine Arab states restored relations with Egypt after an eight-year rupture.

Mr. Sherif was quoted by the Middle East News Agency (MENA) as saying that the visit would take place in the first half of January. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Mubarak is scheduled to visit the United States in the second half of January.

Sudan, Somalia and Oman never severed diplomatic ties with Cairo, Jordan and Djibouti restored relations in 1984.

The countries which resumed relations following the Arab summit in Amman last November are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Iraq, North Yemen, Morocco and Mauritania.

The countries who have not restored relations are Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, Tunisia and Lebanon.

U.N. arms embargo on Iran may take months, cut U.S. role in Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — A new U.N. move toward a possible arms embargo against Iran may lead to a scaled-down American presence in the Gulf if future sanctions have teeth, according to independent analysts.

But experts say it would take several months before any U.N. Security Council embargo could begin to bite, mainly because Iran buys much of its arsenal on the black market.

In the meantime, the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war appears likely to continue more or less unabated, according to Gary Sick, a Gulf expert who served on the U.S. National Security Council staff during the 1979 Iranian Islamic Revolution.

Mr. Sick and U.S. State Department analysts expect Iran to launch its annual winter offensive soon. They predict that the land war will continue to spill over into attacks on neutral shipping in the Gulf.

As a result, the United States appears to be locked into continuing the escort of 11 Kuwaiti

tankers re-registered earlier this year as U.S. flag vessels to protect them from Iran, which regards Kuwait as an ally of Iraq.

But a statement by the U.N. Security Council on Thursday raised U.S. hopes that the Council may be moving towards the arms embargo that Washington has sought.

The Council said it was determined to consider further steps to ensure compliance with Resolution 598, adopted unanimously last July 20, demanding a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Iraq has said it is ready to comply with a ceasefire if Iran does likewise. Tehran has said it will stop fighting only if certain conditions are met, including international condemnation of Iraq as a "terrorist" nation.

Moroccans move to defend the battlements of Oman

MUSCAT (R) — The battlements of Oman's forts and castles, threatened no longer by medieval desert warlords but by 20th century decay, have found a new ally in Morocco.

The North African kingdom signed an agreement on Saturday to step up its help in restoring the Gulf sultanate's heritage of walled defences dating from the Middle Ages.

Morocco first provided Oman with technical expertise in 1984, since then three forts have been restored.

They overlook Rustaq and the former capital Nizwa inland and rka on the Gulf of Oman coast. Eight more will be renovated 1990 under the new accord between Moroccan Ambassador Mohammad Faraj Al Dakali med in Muscat.

The U.N. cultural watchdog NESCO earlier this month acclaimed one of them, Bahla Fort, to its world heritage list of monuments and sites worth preserving or posterity.

Oman's National Heritage and Culture Ministry has nominated several other forts to be put on the list.

Dakali told Reuters in an interview that 60 Moroccan experts were teaching Omanis the art of restoring ancient monuments.

Morocco, showcasing itself of European, North African and Arab history, has helped Spain, France, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to preserve monuments of their heritage but Mr. Dakali said the accord with Oman was a new

China wants end to Gulf war, N. Yemeni leader says

SANAA (R) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh returned on Sunday from talks in China and said Peking wanted an end to the Iran-Iraq war and had voiced support for a proposed international peace conference in the Middle East.

Mr. Saleh told the official North Yemeni News Agency (SABA) on his return: "We found a deep understanding and interest for an end to this war and its destruction."

He said his talks covered the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan, said he had signed agreements with Chinese officials for which Peking would provide loans to finance North Yemen's 1987-91 five-year development plan. No amount was given.

Joint Sudanese-Ethiopian committee to meet on Jan. 7

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A joint high-level Sudanese-Ethiopian committee is scheduled to meet on Jan. 7 to seek an end to conflicts between the two neighbouring African states.

Sudan's Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi, speaking to reporters Saturday said a venue for the meeting had not been settled yet.

Relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, generally tense, worsened when Khartoum claimed that a southern rebel take-over of the strategic town of Kurnuk on Nov. 12 was backed by Ethiopian troops and shelling from across the border.

For years, the two countries have traded accusations of harbouring and aiding rebels to one another's central government.

Plans for a joint-committee were announced early this month in Kampala, Uganda where Mr. Mahdi met with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Ethiopia has denied any role in the battle at Kurnuk.

Sudan on Tuesday said its armed forces had recaptured Kurnuk, 590 kilometres away from the capital and only 144 kilometres away from a hydroelectric dam at Damazin.

The war had jeopardised the interests and stability of Islamic countries, and had ended the peaceful coexistence between the countries now involved in the war, he said.

The delegation, the first to visit Somalia from Iran since the outbreak of the seven-year-old Gulf war, is led by Mohammad Hussen Laban, director-general of Arab and African affairs in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Palestinians will accept any part of occupied territories for state'

ABUDHABI (R) — Palestinians will accept any piece of land in Israeli-occupied territories for their own state, a leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in an interview published on Sunday.

"Border issues will not be a problem in the beginning," Salab Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, a top aide of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told Al Ittihad newspaper.

"We will accept any piece of land in the occupied territories to set up our state," he said.

Mr. Khalaf said the PLO should stick with the idea of an international Middle East peace conference as "the only means to discuss the Palestinian problem."

"We should stick to it if no matter if it was held this year or after a decade," he added.

The Arab League backed the conference idea at a summit in Amman last month. Israeli leaders are split, with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir strongly opposed to the conference and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in favour.

But neither Israeli leader wants the PLO at peace talks.

Mr. Khalaf said PLO relations with Egypt had been repaired after Cairo closed PLO offices in April.

He forecast a PLO-Syria meeting soon. "There was an exchange of letters between the two sides following the Amman summit and that raised the possibility of a meeting at any moment." Syria expelled Arafat from Damascus in 1983.

Somalia urges peaceful settlement of Gulf war

MOGADISHU (R) — Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Hamud told a visiting Iranian delegation on Saturday night that Somalia wanted to see a peaceful end to the Gulf war.

The war had jeopardised the interests and stability of Islamic countries, and had ended the peaceful coexistence between the countries now involved in the war, he said.

The delegation, the first to visit Somalia from Iran since the outbreak of the seven-year-old Gulf war, is led by Mohammad Hussen Laban, director-general of Arab and African affairs in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Western military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said in recent months that Iran and Iraq were capable of producing advanced nerve gases as well as missile systems that, in theory, could be used to deliver the chemical agents.

Mr. Musavi gave no details of the fighter plane. But Western analysts have said they believe it is a propeller-driven aircraft, probably based on the Swiss Pilatus

Amal releases 30 Palestinians

BEIRUT (R) — A Shi'ite Muslim militia freed 10 more Palestinians in South Lebanon on Sunday in a show of support for anti-Israeli protests in the occupied territories, security sources said.

They said Amal militiamen in the port of Tyre, who released 20 Palestinians on Saturday, had freed a second group captured in the "camps war" sparked three years ago when Amal moved to contain growing Palestinian military power in Lebanon's refugee

camps. Rashidiyyeh and Al Buss Palestinian refugee camps near Tyre.

A spokesman for Amal, which has vowed to drive Israeli forces out of South Lebanon, said the release was "a goodwill gesture and a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza."

At least 2,500 people have been killed in the camps war, in which Palestinian fighters accused Amal of trying to end their ability to protect their own people.

The prisoners released on Sunday were originally from the

Abu Nidal group to withhold news of captives

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian guerrilla group said on Sunday it would withhold news of eight Europeans it seized from a yacht, in order to keep attention focused on Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The statement from the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) was sent to an international news agency in Beirut after a report that two of the hostages, sisters aged five and six, would soon be released.

The group, led by Abu Nidal, said it would "provide the necessary clarification, information and evidence about the prisoners in due course."

"In view of the uprising in Palestine... the heroic attacks against the Zionist army by the Lebanese national and Islamic fighters and Palestinian factions, we will cast light for the time being on the escalation of our armed struggle inside Palestine," it said.

The statement said the FRC was withholding news of its captives so as not to divert attention from the Israeli-occupied territories.

Iran admits producing chemical arms

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said Sunday that his country is producing "sophisticated offensive chemical weapons" and has deployed long-range missiles along the front-line with Iraq in the 7-year-old Gulf war.

But neither Israeli leader wants the PLO at peace talks.

Mr. Khalaf said PLO relations with Egypt had been repaired after Cairo closed PLO offices in April.

He forecast a PLO-Syria meeting soon. "There was an exchange of letters between the two sides following the Amman summit and that raised the possibility of a meeting at any moment." Syria expelled Arafat from Damascus in 1983.

Mr. Musavi was addressing the Majlis, or Iran's parliament, in Tehran when he presented the budget for the new Iranian year which begins on March 21.

His admission that Iran is producing chemical weapons was the first official statement indicating that manufacturing has begun. Until now, Iranian spokesmen have only said Iran had the capability to produce such weapons, banned under a 1925 Geneva treaty.

IRNA quoted Mr. Musavi as saying that Iran will not use the outlawed weapons "as long as it is not forced to and will respect international conventions."

The claims that Iran is producing new weapons came as Iran was apparently poised to launch a major new ground offensive against Iraq and United Nations moved toward imposing an arms embargo on Iran for refusing to comply with a July 20 Security Council cease-fire resolution.

Western military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said in recent months that Iran and Iraq were capable of producing advanced nerve gases as well as missile systems that, in theory, could be used to deliver the chemical agents.

Mr. Musavi gave no details of the fighter plane. But Western analysts have said they believe it is a propeller-driven aircraft, probably based on the Swiss Pilatus

PC-7 trainer. Iran has some 40 PC-7s, which can be converted for combat use.

Mr. Musavi said the project was among Iran's "future programmes," but said the day when the new plant would be used on combat mission was "not far."

Amid the threat of an arms embargo, mainly at U.S. and British insistence, Iranian leaders have been boasting for months that their domestic arms industry is now sufficiently developed to produce most of the country's military needs, including various kinds of missiles.

Western analysts have acknowledged that Iran is probably self-sufficient in small arms, mortar and ammunition production, and is manufacturing some surface-to-surface missiles with relatively crude guidance systems such as the Soviet-designed Katyusha.

But they are sceptical about claims that Iran is producing technologically sophisticated missiles.

Mr. Musavi said that the deployment of advanced Iranian-made surface-to-surface missiles along the battlefield began last week. He did not elaborate.

The analysts estimate that Iran has massed around 300,000 men in the southern sector of the front for an expected big push against war-battered Basra, once Iraq's second largest city.

Mr. Musavi declared that Iran, increasingly isolated, is striving for economic independence and diversification of its oil-based economy.

He claimed that non-oil exports, such as Persian carpets and agricultural produce, increased by 32 per cent in the first eight months of the current Iranian year.

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Beans (green) 200 / 140	Onion (green) 120 / 100
Beans (red) 500 / 400	Onion (dry) 210 / 170
Beetroots 250 / 200	Oranges (Abu surma) 320 / 250
Carrot 70 / 40	Pepper (hot) 250 / 200
Cauliflower 70 / 40	Pepper (sweet) 220 / 160
Cucumbers 220 / 180	Tomato 100 / 70
Dates (box) 1200 / 1000	Raddish 180 / 140
Egyptian (large) 70 / 40	Spinach 70 / 50
Egyptian (small) 160 / 100	Tomato 180 / 100
Garlic 400 / 300	

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold and partly cloudy to cloudy, with chances for scattered showers. Northwest winds will be moderate to strong. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with chance for scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Min./max. temp. Amman 5 / 11

Amman 8 / 18

Deserts 6 / 14

Jordan Valley 9 / 16

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 81 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

10/11/87

Hamarneh to direct Crown Prince's office

AMMAN (J.T.) — In its session on Saturday, the Council of Ministers deputised the under-secretary of the Ministry of Information, Michael Hamarneh, to serve as director of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's office.

Mr. Hamarneh's appointment will be effective Jan. 1, 1988.

He succeeds Mr. Shehab Madi, who is expected to be nominated for a Foreign Ministry post.

No replacement for Mr. Hamarneh's post at the Information Ministry has been announced yet.



Michael Hamarneh

Jordan, Iraq discuss cooperation in transport

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan on Sunday discussed with Iraqi officials bilateral relations in the transport field.

Mr. Dakhqan, who is currently heading a Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Committee, met with Iraqi Minister of Heavy Industries Abdul Tawab Al Mulla and discussed with him

storing chemical fertilisers and transporting them via Aqaba Port.

Mr. Dakhqan also met with Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim for talks on transporting Iraqi oil through Aqaba.

The two meetings were attended by Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Mohammad Hamzeh Al Zubaidi.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moumani family condoled by King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday deputised the governor of Irbid, Mr. Akram Al Naser to convey the King's condolences to the Moumani family over the death of Haj Hussein Mahmoud Al Moumani.

Prince Mohammad condoles Hadid family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, on Sunday deputised the director of his office, Mr. Turki Al Khereisha, to offer condolences to the Al Hadid family over the death of the wife of Sheikh Mutlaq Al Hadid.

Drug trafficker sentenced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Military Governor on Sunday approved the Military Court's decision to sentence Abdullah Hasan Mahmoud to a three-year prison term for trading hashish

Fayez congratulated on successful operation

AMMAN (Petra) — Senior Jordanian officials and Parliament members and Arab diplomats on Sunday called on Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayed to congratulate him on his recovery from the recent operation he underwent at the Houston Medical Centre.

Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jasem, Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh and Chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC) Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh made separate visits to Mr. Fayed's residence.

Mr. Jasem and Mr. Wahbeh conveyed to Mr. Fayed greetings from the Speaker of the Iraqi National Council, Dr. Sa'doun Hamadi, and the Speaker of the Egyptian Peoples' Council, Dr. Rifaat Al Majdoub, respectively.

On Saturday, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Jasem Al Bahi visited Mr. Fayed and congratulated him on the success of his operation.

Anti-smoking group meets with PSD chief

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society headed by Dr. Zubair Mahas on Sunday paid a visit to the Public Security Department (PSD), where it held talks with PSD Director General Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Talks between the delegation and Lt.-Gen. Majali focused on

supporting the society's activities and enabling it to perform its mission, which is based on the concept that health security is an integral part of the message of the police, as well as an important aspect of the comprehensive security concept which the PSD has always advocated.

Mr. Oatarneh urged Zarqa citizens not to park their cars in banned and downtown areas.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on Sunday lays the foundation stone for the new Central Blood Bank building (Petra photo)

Hamzeh lays stone for new blood bank building

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on Sunday laid the foundation stone for a new building to house Jordan's Central Blood Bank and pledged that his ministry would continue to do its utmost to develop and improve health services throughout the Kingdom.

The building, to be set up on 2.5 dunums within the premises of the government-run Al Bashir Hospital in Ashrafiah, will be completed at an estimated cost of JD 350,000.

Dr. Hamzeh underlined the need to encourage citizens' understanding of the importance of blood donations and their role in saving the lives of many patients in need of blood transfusions.

Zarqa governor inspects street maintenance projects

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Governor Eid Qatarneh on Sunday inspected the maintenance projects carried out on a number of streets in the governorate and visited a site on the Amman-Zarqa Highway where work was recently completed on regulating the railway crossing.

During his tour, Mr. Oatarneh also reviewed the situation of car parks in the Zarqa area and as briefed on the needs of a number of citizens regarding public services.

Mr. Oatarneh urged Zarqa citizens not to park their cars in banned and downtown areas.

Saudi leader accuses Iran of expansionist plans

(Continued from page 1)

he added. Officials said the king held two hours of talks on Sunday with the heads of state of fellow GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The talks focused on the war and Gulf security, they said.

GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bishara told Reuters the summit would discuss ways to end the war and would stress the need to implement July's U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 ordering a ceasefire.

Q: How do you assess the outcome of your visit to the Soviet Union and your talks with Soviet leaders, the status of relations between both countries and prospects of their development?

A: I am happy with my visit to your great country and my meeting with its friendly leaders who received us warmly and made our stay here in Moscow comfortable.

The meeting with Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev has left a great impression in my heart. I found him a hard-working leader who is well informed about the details of international politics. Our meeting lasted for a long time during which we discussed in a constructive spirit all the problems that we face today.

Soviet-Jordanian talks were conducted in a candid atmosphere and dealt with specific issues. The talks were useful and helped enhance mutual confidence, and this, in my opinion, is one of the most important outcomes of my visit. It is one of the reasons of our continued satisfaction to feel your country's firm support for the Arab people's just struggle. It gives us pleasure that relations between our countries are formed on a solid base of complete understanding and mutual interests. As for the prospects of the development of these relations, they are unlimited.

Q: The Amman summit was the first meeting to group Arab leaders in the last five years after the Fez summit conference of 1982. Many observers attribute that to inter-Arab conflicts and divisions.

A: It is true that unfortunately a long period of time separated the two conferences. I hope that future conferences will be held regularly. I consider these conferences very important and that their main mission should be to crystallise a united Arab position vis-a-vis pressing issues and the removal of side differences in order to achieve the goals of this nation.

It is important to note that we have achieved a concrete progress in this field, as relations between Arab states have considerably improved, especially re-

lations between Syria and Iraq. The talks that took place between the leaders of these two Arab states in Amman give us hope for the normalisation of Syrian-Iraqi relations. Several Arab countries have resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt after the Amman summit after the tragic events had separated Egypt from the Arab World. It was our duty to exert all efforts to rectify the situation in the interest of the unity of Arabs. We believe we have established the beginning for this process.

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Jordan to export 200,000 tonnes of potash to China

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) will export 200,000 tonnes of potash to China during the first six months of 1988, according to an agreement reached between the two parties recently.

Under the accord, signed between APC and Chinacom, a Chinese company for fertilisers, this consignment of potash is to be sold at a price 15 per cent higher than that paid for the Jordanian mineral during the last six months of 1987.

This was disclosed on Sunday by Khaled Al Sharaiyah, member

of the APC marketing delegation to China, who returned home on Saturday following the signing of the agreement.

Dr. Sharaiyah did not disclose the agreement's financial terms, but said the increase in the mineral's price for next year comes in harmony with the expected inter-

national market prices for potash in 1988.

Dr. Sharaiyah said that APC exports of potash to China this year amounted to 300,000 tonnes, making China the second largest importer of the country's potash after India.

He said that the Chinese government was keen on developing the existing cooperation ties with Jordan as reflected in its importation of Jordanian potash, which China uses to develop its agricultural sector.

Agricultural exports increase in November

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fruit and vegetables have increased by 1,673 tonnes during the month of November 1987, while its imports have decreased by 1,708 tonnes, Ministry of Agriculture sources said on Sunday.

The sources said that the ministry has exported 22,755 tonnes of fruit and vegetables this past November, compared with 21,062 tonnes in November 1986.

The sources added that the ministry's imports of these commodities during the reporting month was 5,734 tonnes in November 1987, against 7,442 tonnes in the same month last year.

It also permits the importation of onions and garlic by the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO).

Cabinet endorses £5m British loan agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Sunday endorsed a £5 million loan agreement from the British government to finance a number of projects included in the Kingdom's national development scheme for the period 1986-1990.

The Cabinet also named mem-

bers of the Jordanian side to attend next month's joint meetings of the Jordanian-Turkish Committee for Bilateral Transit and Transport. The Jordanian side will be chaired by the director of the Ministry of Transport's department of road transportation.

Pan-Arab symposium aims to formulate new methodology for writing Arab history

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nsayeef Jasem on Sunday inaugurated a pan-Arab symposium on writing Arab history.

The three-day symposium, organised by a special committee on the subject under the theme "Towards an Arab School for Understanding and Writing Arab History," aims to draw up proposals for a new methodology for writing history.

Taking part in the symposium are a number of Arab historians,

including the following Jordanian historians: President of Mu'ta University Ali Mahafza, Dean of Scientific Research at the University of Jordan Dr. Adnan Al Bakheet, Dr. Mohammad Hatamleh, Dr. Lutfi Yehya, Dr. Sa'd Abu Dayyeh and Mr. Sulaiman Al Mousa.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Mahafza said the symposium is the first serious attempt to look into the methodology of historical research and the scientific study of



Norwegian minister begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Norwegian minister of energy arrived here on Sunday at the beginning of a week-long official visit to Jordan. During his visit the minister will discuss with Jordanian officials means of strengthening and enhancing bilateral relations and will visit a number of archaeological, historical and touristic sites in the Kingdom.

He reaffirmed Israel's opposition to direct PLO participation in peace talks but said a Jordanian delegation could include "Palestinian representation, no doubt among them those who are residing in the (occupied) territories because their fate and future will be decided there."

"Obviously today, it's clearer than ever before that only a political, peaceful, diplomatic settlement can provide the necessary answers to the Arabs and the Israelis as well," he continued.

"The problem really for the time being is not what will be the permanent settlement but what will be the first step."

Rabin said: "The PLO is not going to be a partner from Israel's point of view."

DECEMBER 1987

AMMAN PLAZA

SATURDAY 26TH UNTIL

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Paying in blood for the delay

ALTHOUGH it was hailed by the U.S. as a welcome action which "clearly puts the council on record as determined to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible," the Christmas Eve statement issued by the United Nations Security Council on the Iran-Iraq war leaves much to be desired in the way of action by the world community to end the war. The statement issued by the president of the council on behalf of its members merely reiterated the council's continued commitment to Resolution 598 and its indivisibility and contained an expression of intent to apply sanctions against any party which does not accept and abide by the resolution.

After more than five months of waiting for Iran to pronounce its clear and unequivocal stand on the Security Council resolution, the world has every right to expect something more forthright and effective from the Security Council than a mere declaration of intent to apply sanctions at an as yet undetermined future date. Much death and destruction has occurred since July 20, when Resolution 598 was unanimously adopted. Further delay and inaction would necessarily mean additional bloodshed and devastation which neither side to the Gulf conflict can afford.

But while one would welcome the reassurances contained in the Security Council's recent statement that the features of Resolution 598 are integral and indivisible, there is still cause for concern that such affirmations detached from the call for an orderly implementation of the ceasefire resolution would encourage Iran to insist on its lopsided approach to resolutions.

In all, the signal to Iran as expressed in this Christmas Eve statement appears to be merely a message, and not a strong one at that, that the world has been waiting for from the main decision-making organ of the U.N. Unless it is followed with concrete action by the U.N., it will remain ink on paper like so many other resolutions aimed at stopping armed conflict around the world. If the underlying reason behind the Security Council's approach to the Gulf war is to give diplomacy and political manoeuvring another grace period, it must be kept in mind that the world can ill afford such a luxury. While the international community waits for miracles to occur in the Gulf and for political efforts to bear fruit, the peoples of the warring countries are paying for this delay in blood and suffering.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A call on Arabs

MILITARY judicial authorities in the occupied Arab territories have begun issuing sentences against the detained Arab civilians in a move considered as another stage in Israel's terrorist campaign against the Arab population. The move comes in the wake of more than two weeks of anti-Israeli demonstrations which brought about the mass arrests of thousands of Arabs in different Arab towns and villages under Israeli rule. The Israelis had threatened that they will put the Arab detainees on trial during the bloody events in which the Israeli troops killed and wounded tens of civilians seeking their freedom.

The events focused the world's eyes on Israel's occupation of Arab territories and reaffirmed the belief among many nations that despite the military power and terrorism the Israeli leaders have failed to put down the Arab resistance and stifle the spirit of struggle for freedom. At the same time the world witnessed the determination of the Palestinian people to liberate their homeland from the invaders and that the struggle of the Palestinian people will continue unabated until freedom is won. But it should be said that the events in the occupied lands call out on the Arab countries to take appropriate measures for supporting their brothers in the occupied land by all available means so that they can safeguard their identity and protect their land and rights.

Al Dustour: U.N.'s responsibility

DESPITE worldwide condemnation of its actions in the occupied territories and the recent U.N. Security Council resolution deplored terrorist activity against the Arab civilians. Israel is pursuing its campaign to stem Arab resistance. This campaign includes mass arrests, curfews on towns and villages and trial before military courts. It looks as though Israel which has been in the custom of scoffing at United Nations resolutions and disregarding the will of the international community will continue to follow its iron-fist policy in dealing with the Arab citizens and in stemming all forms of resistance against occupation.

Israel seems to be quite assured that no sanctions would be imposed on it for its atrocities and so it is going ahead with terrorist plans directed against the Arab population. Israel is well protected against condemnation and sanctions by the U.S., which provides continued military and material assistance to the Jewish state. Despite U.N. Security Council Resolution 605, which clearly deplores Israel's actions, the Israelis are trying Arab detainees before military courts and showing disdain for all U.N. resolutions. We believe that the Security Council should not suffice itself by issuing statements and resolutions condemning Israel's practices, but it should take other appropriate measures to end repression against the Arab citizens and stop all attempts at deporting them from their homeland.

Sawt Al Shaab: Solidarity with the struggle

AS the Arab people of the occupied Palestinian land escalate their struggle for freedom the Israelis step up their campaigns for eliminating all forms of resistance. Despite U.N. Security Council Resolution 605, the occupied territories are witnessing more arrests, more trials and more repression committed by the Israeli authorities against the Arab population. Jordan, which has warned against continued Israeli arbitrary measures and inhuman treatment of the Arab people under occupation, has made it clear that it would abort Israel's attempts to deport Arab citizens to the East Bank to blackmail the Arabs into stopping their resistance actions. At the same time, Jordan announced that it would extend financial help to the families of martyrs who fell as a result of the Israeli practices.

New thoughts and ideas for 1988

By Waleed Sadi

AS THE year 1987 comes to a close, the new year can very well usher in spectacular developments on the Palestinian scene, especially in the wake of the sustained and spontaneous uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the past three weeks. There are indeed repeated signs that the Palestinian problem is finally coming to a head. The mounting death and injury toll in the occupied Arab territories ensuing from the recent Palestinian resurrection may end up being the very watershed that could advance the resolution of the Palestinian case more than all the political efforts exerted thus far put together. Not only there is now more international attention than ever and concern focused on the troubled occupied territories, but also the peoples most directly affected by the 20 years of occupation, i.e. the Arab Palestinians and the Israelis, feel now more than ever the urgency of the need to find an equitable and durable solution to the dilemma posed by such an occupation. There is now an Arab and Israeli awakening to the reality that now is the time to crystallise new, bold initiatives to shake the dormant if not fossilised peace process in the Middle East.

And with Israel and its self-centered diagnosis of the recent events in the occupied territories becoming more and more isolated internationally and abandoned by even the United States, the international and regional scenes are now set for imaginative new approaches to the chronic Palestinian problem. No matter how the United States, the staunchest ally of Israel, has voted on the Christmas Eve United Nations Security Council resolution pertaining to the events in the West Bank and Gaza, the fact remains that Washington has subscribed in the clearest possible terms to the proposition that the Israeli occupation is the principal cause of the cycle of violence in the occupied territories. That was the punch line in the United States' position which no-one in his right mind should attempt to undermine or underestimate. The Arab side would be well advised to view with encouragement this transformation in the United States thinking with regard to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and the subjugation and oppression of the Palestinian people. This metamorphosis in the United States' perspective would explain the Israeli government's swift and sharp

astonishment and bewilderment at this latest United States evolution in the interpretation of the main causes of the cycle of violence in the Arab occupied territories. Needless to add, the vote of abstention that was cast by the United States on the Christmas Eve resolution is not too relevant per se. What is relevant and what matters most are the substantive points and positions enunciated by the United States government in the course of the debate on the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza and behind-the-scenes negotiations that were conducted concurrently with the open debate. That does not mean that the Reagan administration has turned abruptly and overnight into an Arab supporter in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Rather, it is a signal that Washington is now joining forces with the rest of the major capitals of the world in serving a notice on Israel that its 20-year-old occupation must have an expeditious end. Viewed from this perspective, Israel now stands alone in its untenable position that its occupation of Arab territories is an open-ended phenomenon.

Equally untenable is the Israeli construction of events and circumstances that lead to the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. In particular, the Israeli counsel to the Palestinian people under occupation that they should resort to peaceful means to resolve their conflict with the Israeli occupation, has become also dubious to say the least and a suspect of being a delaying tactic nothing more and nothing less. Needless to comment, such a counsel of restraint is not borne out by ancient and contemporary history.

There is no historical case in point which would lend support to the proposition that people under occupation have earned their liberation and freedom by sitting on their hands. Even the Indian non-violent struggle for independence had ended up in violence. It would indeed be just beautiful if the Palestinian case can end up being a precedent case substantiating the thesis that conflicts between peoples can be resolved by peaceful and rational means. However the record of Israeli occupation does not lend support to this optimistic prognosis. Much blood had been spilled and untold suffering and anguish had ensued already. Yet the Arab side is still open minded about peaceful means to resolve their conflict with

Israel. In this context, the new year will have to answer the endemic question of whether the decade and a half old international peace idea will continue to be barren or will surprise everybody by bearing fruit in the course of the new year and beyond. And as 20 years had elapsed since the adoption of Resolution 242, the primary basis of any such peace conference, it would be in order to think in terms of according it a "booster" followup United Nations Security Council resolution as envisaged for the now famous Security Council Resolution 598 on the Gulf war. Moreover, since much water had crossed under the bridge since 1967, it would be also prudent and rational to think of the unthinkable and contemplate the possibility of "revamping" the said resolution to take into consideration relevant developments which had occurred since 1967. What could be contemplated in particular is the possibility of incorporating a new procedure which will envisage some kind of "division of labour" in which the consequences of the 1967 war would be dealt with independently of the "Palestinian case" as such. In this context, one could envisage the reactivation of the Arab-Israeli mixed armistice commissions of 1949 with a view to have them deal specifically with the direct consequences of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It is the Palestinian case per se that requires a conference of an international character which could be convened concurrently with the reactivation of the Arab-Israeli armistice Commissions. And to allay any foreboding on any part, the ratification of the results of any such separate procedure could be made contingent on the approval of the outcome of the follow-up endeavour. Of course no such new initiatives can work without affecting before hand a clear and deep agreement between the Arab parties specifically concerned with all these exercises in order to realise full cooperation and coordination between them and eliminate any remnants of competition and rivalry about the respective roles and functions.

This is obviously a big order but the stakes are high enough to necessitate statesmanship of the highest order and bold and imaginative new thinking on the part of all the players in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including Egypt.

More than 'unrest' in Gaza, and no solution in sight

By Hirsch Goodman

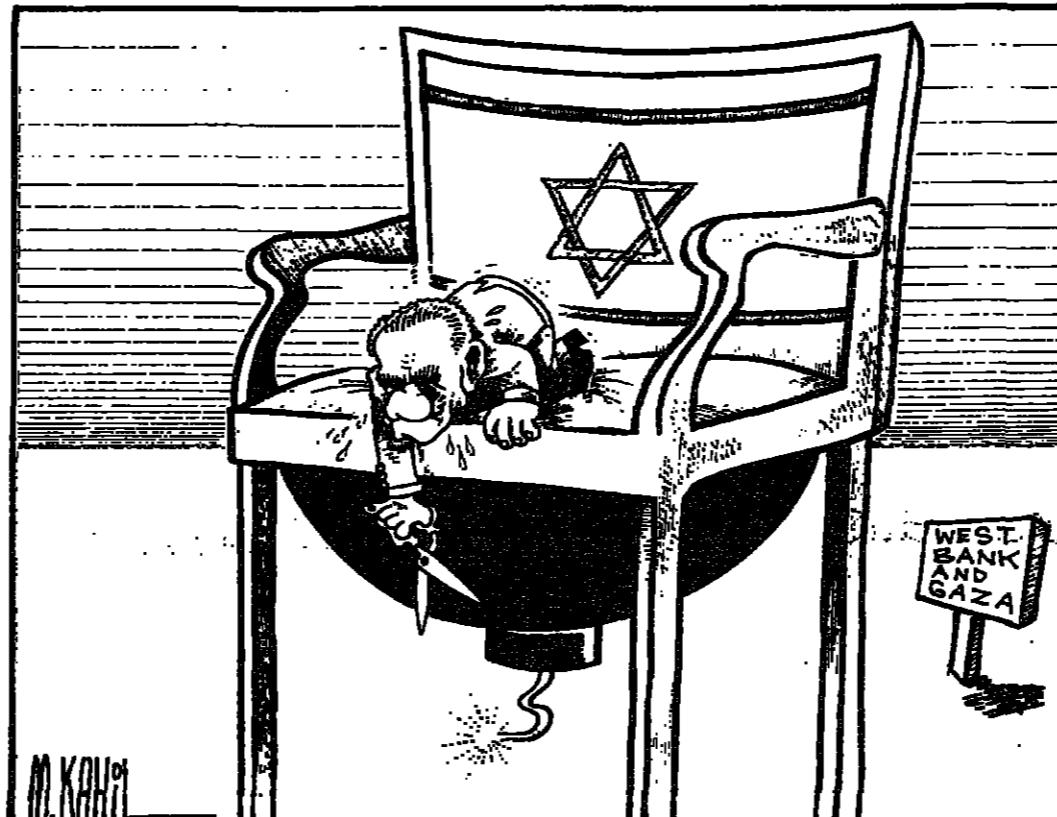
VETERAN correspondents who covered events in the Gaza Strip this past week say they have never seen anything like it — the anger and hatred, the sheer ferocity of the thousands of youngsters hurling rocks and homemade firebombs at their Israeli occupiers, undaunted by either the gas canisters or the gunfire that greeted them. Young Palestinians, wearing red-and-white checked kaffiyehs not to hide their faces but as a badge of honour, charged the Israeli troops as looking to become martyrs, their defiance taking the Israelis, used to supplication, by surprise.

Columnists were quick to interpret events as the dawning of a new age in Israel's relations with the 1.3 million Palestinians in the areas it has occupied since 1967. This was more than civil unrest, they claimed; it was the beginning of a civil rebellion.

They may be right. The youngsters in Gaza and several cities on the West Bank where riots erupted this month have not received terrorist training, nor are they members of a terrorist organization. They are members of that Palestinian generation that grew up knowing nothing but occupation. Violence, hatred, fear and suspicion, action and counteraction have become integral parts of their day-to-day life.

For 20 years the current generation of Palestinians manning the road-blocks and turning universities and high schools into battlefields have watched with growing frustration as 60,000 Israelis settled the West Bank and Gaza, with little reaction from their own leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization, or their Arab brethren to stop the process.

Nine Arab nations have re-



newed their diplomatic ties with Egypt in recent months without any concessions demanded on the Palestinian issue. The PLO remains at odds not only with the Arab World but with itself, tangled as ever in internecine strife and diplomatic intrigue.

No wonder the frustration in Jenin, Tulkarm, East Jerusalem and Gaza. And no wonder that in this environment the slightest spark becomes a flashpoint for battles between young Palestinians with nothing to lose and the Israeli army, which is having an increasingly difficult time dealing with the new phenomenon. Each casualty creates a new martyr and yet another reason for a snowball of violence.

It has become increasingly

clear to Israeli policy makers, even on the right, that the situation has all the essentials of a dangerous dynamic. Notwithstanding the government's reassurances that this latest outbreak is but a passing phase, ministers will privately tell you that they are worried and depressed. Worse, they have no new ideas about how to alter things.

Labour Party ministers bemoan the death of the international conference, blaming the obduracy of the conservative Likud Bloc for the failure; those in Likud are frustrated by the demographic and political realities that are slowly cracking the dream of the perfect Eretz Israel, or biblical land of Israel, which would include all of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The case of Gaza explains why. Wedged between Israel and the Mediterranean, it is undoubtedly one of the most unattractive places on Earth. With an area of only 130 square miles (340 square kilometres), it is also one of the most densely populated. More than two-thirds of its people live in refugee camps created after the 1948 Palestinian exodus from Palestine. For 19 years, until conquered by Israel in 1967, it was left to fester by the Egyptians, and to this day its schools, relief organisations and hospitals are run by international agencies.

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with the mean age of 14, a longer life expectancy and a lower infant mortality rate. According to their calculations, by then the number of refugees will have grown to 800,000. If the current rate of refugee rehabilitation is maintained, they will remain living in refugee camps for the next 900 years, faced with a shortage of drinking water and with smaller land parcels, making agricultural expansion, their only source of income, impossible. Some will find work in Israel, but most will remain dependent on international charity.

Likud faces a no-win situation. Even if it succeeds in moving in the 20,000 settlers it plans to have in Gaza (an increase of more than 15 times the current number) by the year 2000, Jews will still be less than 2 per cent of the total population. With each passing year that percentage will diminish, forcing even the staunchest nationalists to have deep second thoughts about the situation.

Frustration is not only to be found on the Arab side of the Green Line. What makes the situation even more depressing for the many Israelis who would like to see a political settlement for the growing nightmare of occupation is that they, too, can see no solution — only a political vacuum inflamed by the type of

The writer is defence correspondent for the Jerusalem Post. He contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.



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Seeding clouds — a successful experience in Jordan's water quest

By Rania Atalla

AMMAN — To many, water resource development may mean building dams and reservoirs or storing and redistributing available water, but it means much more to those involved in weather modification.

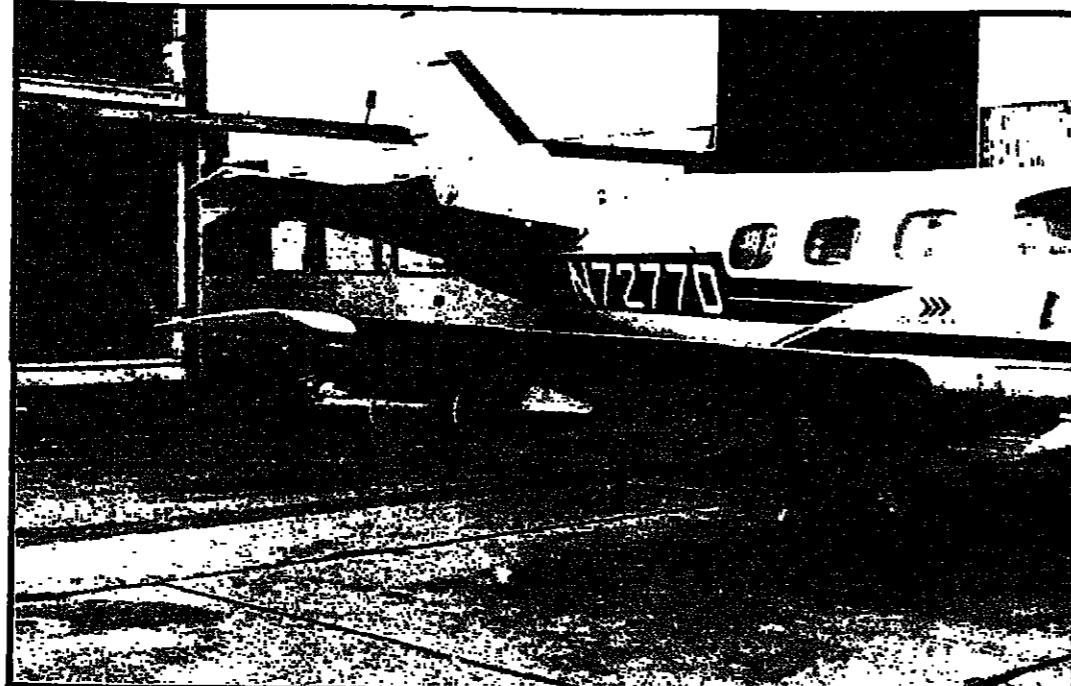
Weather modification, or cloud seeding, is the intentional treatment of individual cloud or storm systems to increase the amount of precipitation and rainfall that can be used for various purposes, most notably agriculture.

In an attempt to increase the amount of rainfall in the country during the rainy seasons, a weather modification programme was started in Jordan in November 1986. The programme, the first of its kind in the country, was carried out by the Department of Meteorology with the help and guidance of an American-based firm, Weather Modification Inc. (WMI).

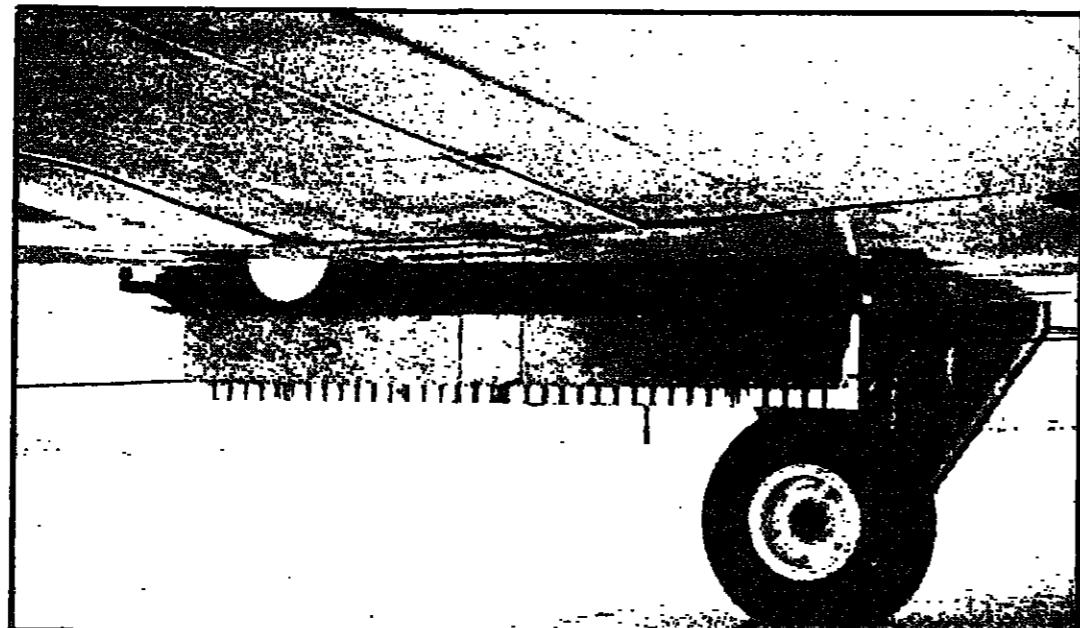
Contrary to what some may think, cloud seeding does not involve the creation of clouds. Rather, it is an enhancement of the natural process through which rain (or snow) falls to the ground.

"We are not creating clouds to produce rain. Cloud seeding simply takes advantage of the amount of liquid water in the cloud to turn it into precipitation," says John Girdzus, chief meteorologist from WMI who, along with a radar technician and an experienced pilot, is in Jordan specifically for the weather modification programme.

Cloud seeding is simply a process of introducing precipitation-forming particles to the right kinds of clouds. These "seedable" clouds are usually close to raining on their own but because they lack the right type of particles, the moisture contained in them is not processed as fast or as efficiently as it is when silver iodide particles are introduced.



A burner used for spraying silver iodide attached to the aircraft's wing (photo by Rania Atalla)



An electronic assembly containing AgI-filled cartridges attached below the aircraft's fuselage to disperse chemicals into clouds (Department of Meteorology photo)

The principle behind the cloud seeding process is that in the "seedable" clouds there are water droplets above the freezing level that have a certain surface tension. Because the surface ten-

sion of the artificial ice particles (silver iodide) is less than that of the cloud droplets, the introduc-

tion of such ice particles allows the cloud droplets to grow in mass, eventually overcoming the cloud's vertical motion and fall to the ground as precipitation.

Using silver iodide as the principal seeding agent, cloud seeding in Jordan is carried out in three different methods — two aerial seeding methods, which make use of a specially equipped aircraft, and the third method, applied in situations when the aircraft cannot be operated, uses ground-based silver iodide generators.

The first method, which uses two wing-mounted stainless steel pods as generators, is utilised when the target area is quite wide-spread (usually in the presence of convective clouds.) Each pod carries nine gallons of silver iodide/sodium iodide (AgI/NaI) in an acetone solution. The solution is released to the atmosphere at an average rate of 3.5 to 4.5 gallons per hour for each generator pod. This produces a treatment of 2.1 grammes of AgI/NaI per minute for each generator on the selected cloud system.

The other aerial seeding technique operates on a similar principle but is slightly different in application. A single electronic assembly is installed below the fuselage of the aircraft, holding up to 96 cartridges of solid silver iodide. These cartridges, which range in concentration of AgI from 10 to 30 grammes each, are ignited using an electrical control signal, thus dispensing the solid seed agent into the selected cloud complex. According to meteorologist and forecaster Nabil Kafaween, this technique is applied when the targeted area is fairly limited and the process needs to be intensive due to the presence of deep convective clouds.

The third technique for cloud seeding uses ground-based generators to release silver iodide from the ground. These generators are operated when aerial seeding using an aircraft is not possible (during the night, for example).

"The ground-based generators are cylinders with butane gas that is burned with silver iodide in the areas where there is an updraft or an upward wind motion," that carries the chemicals up to the clouds, explained Mr. Kafaween.

These generators are located in various sites in the country, including Ra's Al Neif in Ajloun, Teebeh in Irbid, Al Rabbah in Karak, Tafleeh, Shobak and Dein Alla. Jordan already had 18 generators and six new ones were installed this year in north Shouneh, in Sweileh, at Queen Alia International Airport and at the King Talal Dam.

The on-board computer is also capable of reading other navigational elements that allow for exact targeting of cloud systems. The events are registered by a computer every second so that the impact of cloud seeding is recorded on the spot and is available for future analyses.

As for the effectiveness of the seeding programme, Mr. Girdzus told the Jordan Times that the success of such a programme can yield increases from 15 to 30 per cent, meaning, when it does rain, seeded clouds will give 15 to 30 per cent more rain than they would without seeding.

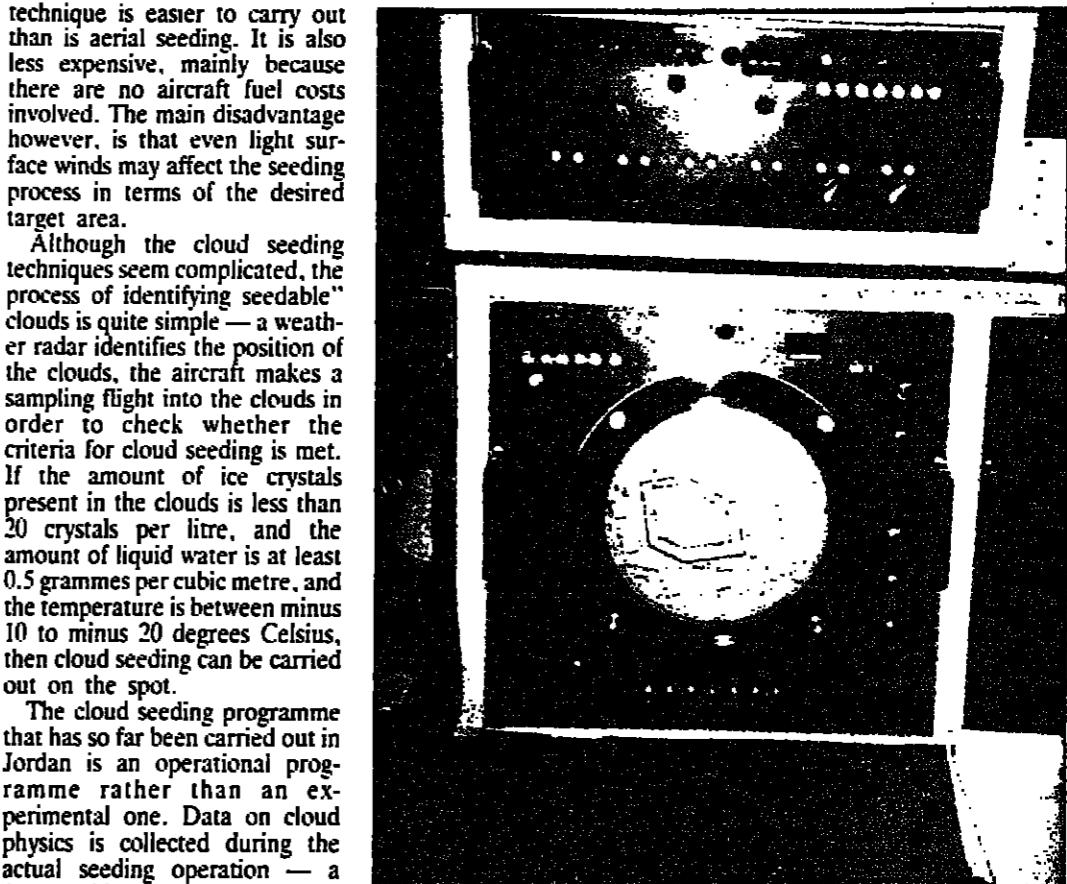
According to Mr. Kafaween, these sites were chosen because "they represent areas where rainfall is needed and they are suitable for up-draft currents or thermals during the passage of frontal depressions."

Six of the ground-based generators operating currently were manufactured in Jordan, according to Dr. Ali Abanda, director of the Department of Meteorology. There are plans to manufacture 12 more and distribute them around the country.

The ground-based seeding



The twin-engined Beechcraft used for cloud seeding (Department of Meteorology photo)



Weather monitoring equipment related to cloud seeding (Department of Meteorology photo)

determine whether there is an increase in the amount of precipitation," Mr. Girdzus explained.

As for cloud seeding in Jordan, "there is an indication that the amount of rainfall has increased in the seeded areas," Dr. Abanda said. However, "the exact figures and evaluation of last year's and this year's work will be calculated in North Dakota University during the coming year," he added.

During the 1986-1987 season, cloud seeding operations were carried out at a cost of \$550,000, an amount which was covered by the Ministry of Planning. This year the cost has gone down to \$450,000, according to Dr. Abanda, mainly because the weather radar that was leased last year has been purchased by the Meteorology Department this year. Both the Meteorology Department and the Ministry of Planning are paying for the operational costs of the 1987-1988 programme.

The chemicals that are used in the seeding process, Mr. Girdzus said, "cause no problems to the ecology system." He added that the amount that is dispersed into the clouds is "almost negligible."

In the United States, cloud seeding programmes were started more than 25 years ago and there is approximately 35 programmes

currently being carried out. In Canada, there are plans to carry out weather modification programmes in order to increase the snowpack in preparation for the winter olympics. Other countries in the region that have undertaken weather modification programmes include Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and Greece. In the Soviet Union, a weather modification was undertaken in the Caucasian mountains to suppress hail that could have negative effects on agriculture.

Are the results of the project worth the amount of money spent? According to Dr. Abanda, "the most precious thing we have in Jordan is rainfall, so if we can increase that by any amount, it is worthwhile. It is money."

Will Jordan have to depend on foreign experts every year if it is to continue its weather modification programme? Not so says Dr. Abanda. "The plan is that either this year or the next, the Meteorology Department will be able to do the process alone, at least from the ground." As for aerial seeding, the plan is to purchase a multi-purpose aircraft in 1990 which would be used among other things, for cloud seeding operations during the rainy seasons.

U.S. Congress declares jazz a 'national treasure'

By Helen Rouce

USA

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Congress has officially designated jazz music as "a rare and valuable national American treasure."

Jazz "has achieved pre-eminence around the world as an indigenous American music and art form and a product of the African-American experience," explains Congressman John Conyers, the leading proponent of the resolution recently passed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

And it is "the foundation of all American music," he said in a statement released December 10 at a news conference announcing the measure's passage.

"The contemporary sounds of today have evolved from ragtime, swing, and bebop," he said. "Today's electronic music duplicates the basics and builds on the creativity of such masters as Ellington, Goodman, Basie, Parker, and Coltrane. These were the pioneers that created joy and communicated good will like no other delegation of ambassadors in history."

The resolution's intent is to officially recognize jazz as a musical art from in the United

States and to give it institutional status commensurate with its value and importance. Its supporters hope this will lead to the establishment of a national centre for the study of jazz, greater documentation and archival support for the art form, and recognition and understanding among the youth of America that jazz is a significant part of their cultural and intellectual heritage.

Conyers noted that the resolution was a bipartisan effort, supported by more than 150 U.S. representatives and more than 60 senators. The Senate passed the resolution December 4, following earlier passage of the measure by the House.

The resolution was the result of a nationwide campaign by non-profit organisations, musicians' unions, elected officials, jazz artists, radio personalities and jazz enthusiasts.

Many of these supporters joined Conyers and his congressional co-sponsor Frank Horton at the news conference. They included Congressional Black Caucus members Harold Ford and Kweisi Mfume, Washington Mayor Marion Barry, musician's union official John Glasell, bassist Keeter Betts, jazz singer Phyllis Hyman, and Voice of

America jazz host Willis Conover.

Conover, who recently re-

turned from his 19th visit to the Polish International Jazz Jamboree, and others noted that in their travels abroad they had en-

countered a respect for, and

knowledge of, jazz that was not

widespread in the United States.

"Classical music, that's what Duke — Edward Kennedy — Ellington's music is in countries around the world, and the music of so many other great musicians from this country," Conover said.

"It is an unfortunate fact," said union official Glasell, "that performance opportunities for jazz have long been more plentiful abroad, particularly in Europe and Japan, than they are in our nation, which is the home and wellspring of this great music."

Conyers, recalling his first visit to the Soviet Union, said, "The first thing I ran into were jazz musicologists," who were referred to him by the author of a book on jazz. "And there," he continued, "I found out how little I knew about jazz, when I started talking to those who knew not only every musician that was on the record, but when it was cut, (at) what speed it was cut, how many times it was reproduced,

how many variations there were on it. I began to realize that my enjoyment had in some ways limited my technical mastery of the music.

When he began raising the jazz issue in Congress, Conyers said, "the first thing that I found is that there were members that were very, very up on it." When the resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives, he said, many members rose to point out the contributions of their states to the development of jazz.

Senator Alan Cranston spon-

sored the resolution in the Sen-

ate. "We can begin through this modest congressional action, to encourage public and private support for jazz artists and nonprofit jazz organizations," Cranston said in a statement released at the news conference.

According to Mr. Kafaween, these sites were chosen because "they represent areas where rainfall is needed and they are suitable for up-draft currents or thermals during the passage of frontal depressions."

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The ground-based seeding

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Soviet delegation in Seoul

Moscow hints at attending summer games

SEOUL (Agencies) — A Soviet sports mission arrived in Seoul on Sunday to discuss participation in next year's Olympic Games in the South Korean capital, the domestic news agency Yonhap said.

Yonhap said a four-member delegation, led by Soviet National Olympic Committee Vice-President Vojtěchslav Gavrilin, would stay for four days to discuss "ways to transport athletes and other practical matters related with Olympic participation."

Officials of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee and the Seoul Sports Ministry were not available for comment but airport officials confirmed the arrival of the delegation.

The unheralded visit by the Soviet delegation comes after Hungary and East Germany last week announced participation in the Olympics, boosting prospects that the games would be attended.

In July, nine Soviet Olympic officials led by State Sports Committee vice-president Anatoly Kolesov stayed for a week to examine games preparations.

Participation of Soviet Bloc countries in the Seoul Olympics

has been in doubt since North Korea warned it could call a Communist boycott unless allowed to stage some events. South Korea has no diplomatic relations with Communist countries.

In 1980 the United States led a boycott against the Moscow Olympics in protest over the Soviet move into Afghanistan.

Four years later all Soviet Bloc countries except Romania stayed away from the Los Angeles Games, citing security fears.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug on Friday quoted a senior Soviet sports official as saying he expected Moscow to send a team to the Seoul games.

Nikolai Rusak, first deputy president of the Soviet State Sports Committee, said the Soviet Olympic Committee would reach a final decision during a five-day meeting starting Jan. 11.



GETTING KNOTTED: A display of "feminine violence" Loretta Doyle (left) gets to grips with Moira Suttan in preliminary bout at the British judo championships (File photo)

Redskins thwart Vikings' bid for NFC spot

Cleveland Browns steal victory from Steelers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Ali Haji-Sheikh, who missed a 33-yard field goal with 46 seconds left in regulation, kicked a 46-yarder 2:09 into overtime Saturday, as the Washington Redskins prevented the Minnesota Vikings from earning the final NFC wild card spot with a 27-24 victory.

The Vikings, 8-7, won't be in the playoffs unless the Dallas Cowboys can defeat the St. Louis Cardinals. If St. Louis wins, the Cardinals would also finish 8-7 and would be the NFC's last playoff entry based on overall conference record.

Haji-Sheikh's winning three-pointer was set up by a 36-yard kickoff return at the start of overtime by Ricky Sanders, who also caught eight passes for 164 yards and touchdowns of 51 and 46 yards. After Sanders' return, he caught passes of 22 and 10 yards from Doug Williams before the winning kick.

The Redskins, 11-4, can play host to their opening playoff game if the Chicago Bears lose to

the Los Angeles Raiders. Washington's first touchdown came on a 100-yard interception return by Barry Wilburn, the longest in Redskins' history and the longest ever against the Vikings. Wilburn's TD with 5:15 left in the second quarter tied the game 7-7 after Alfred Anderson's first scoring run had given Minnesota the lead.

In Pittsburgh, Bernie Kosar threw a short touchdown pass, Earnest Byner ran 2 yards for a score and the Cleveland defence did the rest as the Browns clinched their third straight AFC Central championship Saturday by defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers 19-13.

The win, which gave the Browns a final record of 10-5, assured Cleveland of at least one home game in the playoffs. It knocked Pittsburgh, which finished at 8-7, out of any hope for a wild-card playoff berth.

And while Kosar was 21 of 36, for 241 yards and Bahr kicked field goals of 31 and 30 yards, the

win was largely the work of the Cleveland defence, led by linebacker Eddie Johnson, in a game filled by numerous minor scuffles between the arch-rivals. Pittsburgh's only touchdown came on a 45-yard interception return by Cornell Gowdy with 7:33 left in the game.

The last of those brawls led to the second Cleveland touchdown — a roughing penalty on Pittsburgh's Delton Hall after the Browns had been stopped at the Pittsburgh 7 five minutes into the fourth quarter and were ready to settle for a field goal.

Instead, it gave the Browns a first down at the 4, setting up Byner's 2-yard touchdown run that made the score 19-6 with 9:36 left in the game.

Cleveland's only other touchdown came in the second quarter on a 2-yard TD pass from Kosar to Derek Tennell.

The Pittsburgh offence, meanwhile, got only field goals of 39 and 27 yards from Gary Anderson and was limited 221 total yards.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aussies dominate Sydney-Hobart race

SYDNEY. Australia (AP) — Australian yacht Sovereign, the world's largest maxi, Sunday continued to lead a record 153-strong fleet in the 630 nautical miles (1,020 km) Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race. At the last reported placings of the fleet Sunday, 27 hours after the boxing day start from Sydney Harbor, Sovereign was 30 nautical miles into Bass Strait — almost halfway to Hobart. Owner Bernard Lewis and skipper David Kellert had Sovereign on course for a record in the annual race, which is being contested for the 43rd time. American yacht Kialoa, owned by Jim Kilroy, set the race record of 2 days 14 hours 36 minutes in 1975. Australian pocket maxi Helsal II was in second place Sunday night, two miles behind Sovereign. She was followed only half a mile back by another Australian yacht, Gazebo. Then came Apollo, Rager, Hammer of Queensland and Helsal III, all of Australia, and New Zealand yacht Starlight Express. American yacht Sidewinder, skippered by America's Cup Helmsman John Bertrand, was ninth with Hong Kong's Highland Fling 10th.

Japanese abandon climb on Annapurna

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Japanese team has given up its effort to climb the 7,129-metre (23,383-foot) Mount Annapurna south peak because of unfavourable weather and the difficulty of the route, a report received Sunday from the base camp said. The report said the eight-member group gave up the climb last Monday, but did not say how high it had gone on the mountain. The team was led by Masami Yamagata, 33, of Utsunomiya.

Poles set up base camp

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A nine-man Polish expedition trying to scale Makalu, the world's fifth tallest peak, has set up its base camp, according to a message brought here Sunday by a mailrunner. The Polish climbers established the camp on Dec. 8 at 4,500 metres (14,760 feet). The team, led by Andrzej Machnik, a 34-year-old geographer of Gliwic, plans to establish four high altitude camps before attempting the 8,463-metre (27,759-foot) peak in east Nepal. The team is following the Makalu's northwest ridge route.

Galatasaray dethrones Besiktas

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Galatasaray ousted Besiktas from the top berth Sunday in the prime soccer division when the former league-leader was held to a goalless draw by Samsunspor in an away game. Defending champion moved to the first place after an impressive 3-0 home win against next to bottom club Adana D. Spor. Galatasaray striker Tanju scored a hat trick, two from penalties, to increase to 20 number of his tallies at the Ali Sami Yen stadium. A goal by Feyzullah in the 30th minute gave third-place Malatyaspor a humble 1-0 victory over visiting Fenerbahce of Istanbul which sank to the 8th place. Powerful Black Sea squad Trabzonspor went one place down to the 5th when it drew 1-1 with Denizlispor in an away game. At the end of 18th-round of play, Galatasaray leads the standings with 42 points, one ahead of Besiktas. Third-ranked Malatyaspor has 33 points.

Svensson heads N.Z. tennis entry

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Jonas Svensson of Sweden is the highest ranked player in the field for the \$150,000 New Zealand Open Tennis Championships, which begin Monday. Svensson, 21, ranked 29th in the world, is top seed in the 32-draw Nabisco Grand Prix event, which includes players from 14 countries. Leading competitors include New Zealander Kelly Evernden, Australian John Frawley, Soviet Andrei Chesnokov, Indian Davis Cup star Ramesh Krishnan, Britain's Jeremy Bates and Marty Davis and Tim Wilkison of the United States.

Buckner wins Silvesterlauf event

ZURICH (R) — Briton Jack Buckner won the annual eight kms Silvesterlauf Road Race on Sunday in 22 minutes 41.95 seconds ahead of Tunisia's Fethi Baccosche, who clocked 22:45.07. Ellie van Hulst of the Netherlands took the five-km women's event in 16:40.97, with Briton Wendy Sly second in 16:47.06.

Dynamo Kiev signs 2 key players

MOSCOW (R) — Dynamo Kiev have signed two Soviet internationals from main Ukrainian rivals Dnepro Dnipro Dnepetrovsk in a bid to rebound from their disappointing sixth-place league finish last season. Star striker Oleg Protasov and attacking midfielder Gennady Litovchenko had both switched to Dynamo, according to the Ukrainian Communist Party daily Pravda Ukraine. Dnepro, formerly a trade union-affiliated side, broke new ground last season by severing links with their sponsors to become the first Soviet independent, self-financing, fully professional club, with players on three-year contracts.

Martelli retains European title

MARTIGNY, Switzerland (R) — Swiss-based Italian Mauro Martelli retained his European welterweight boxing title when he beat French challenger Jean-Marie Touati on points over 12 rounds on Sunday.

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Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

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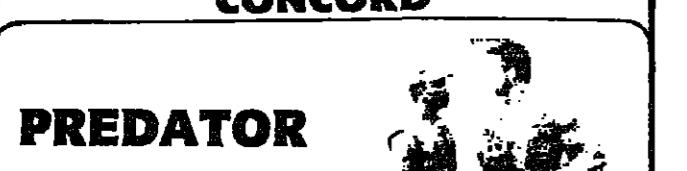
OPERA

Tel: 675573

VENDETTA



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

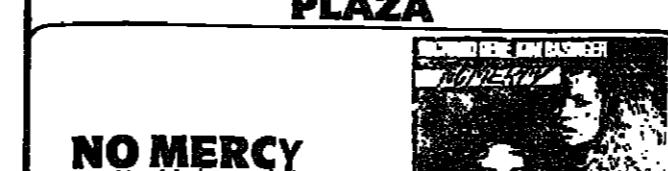
PLAZA

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NO MERCY



Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Sri Lankan police kill 12 people after rebel attack

COLOMBO (R) — Indian Peace-Keeping Forces said Sri Lankan police killed up to 12 civilians in the east of the island on Sunday in revenge for the gunning down of a colleague by Tamil guerrillas.

Indian High Commission (embassy) officials said that according to a report from Indian forces headquarters at Batticaloa, police, enraged by the killing of three colleagues, had gone on a rampage.

"When news of the attack reached the police station, officers in uniform went to the market square killed 12 people and wounded nine. They also set fire to a row of shops," an official said quoting the report.

A 48-hour truce was shattered when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas ambushed a police patrol in the market, killing one officer and wounding the others, a police official said.

He said 17 civilians were killed in crossfire and denied the Indian report that three policemen were killed.

A Roman Catholic priest at Batticaloa said people were dragged out of shops in the market square and shot by police. "There are at least six bodies lying on deserted streets."

Hospital sources said 18 dead lay in the mortuary, three of them children under 14. Another nine casualties were in serious condition.

The Indian official said soldiers asked the police to withdraw from the market square, which

they did. The area was then cordoned off by Indian security forces, she added.

Crowds scattered and shops closed as Indian troops and police sprayed the square with gunfire shooting at the fleeing rebels.

Residents said police also set fire to shops, motorcycles and bicycles at the market. Indian soldiers from machine-gun positions located atop buildings intermittently fired at nearby streets and "anything that moved."

"We were under siege for about three hours with bullets raining all over. Some pierced the reading room of the bishop's house which was fortunately empty," the church official said.

Windows of a house where priests lived was also broken.

A police spokesman at Batticaloa said 17 civilians were killed in the crossfire.

"After ambushing the patrol, the terrorists threw grenades from shops inside the market," he said.

He denied that police set fire to shops and vehicles but said about 15 shops were gutted by fire set off by a fallen electric relay post which was damaged in the fighting.

The Tigers, most powerful of Tamil groups fighting for an inde-

pendent homeland, repudiated a July peace accord intended to end the separatist war and are battling Indian troops sent to implement the pact.

Police lifted a night curfew on Friday to allow Roman Catholics to attend midnight mass. Church officials said priests implored worshippers to pray for an end to the fighting.

They said the church had earlier appealed for a Christmas truce between the rebels and security forces. No serious incidents were reported by police on Christmas Day and Saturday.

The police spokesman said a curfew had been imposed from noon on Sunday until Monday morning. He said Indian troops had detained about 200 young men for questioning on whether they had links with the Tigers.

Church officials said about 100 civilians sought refuge at bishop's house while many others who crossed the lagoon which divides the shopping area were stranded during the gunfire.

In other incidents, the Tigers attacked a police post and mobile patrol at Aranthawala village in eastern Ampara district on Sunday. Police said there were no casualties.

Residents at Vavuniya town in the north quoted travellers from Jaffna peninsula as saying one Indian soldier was killed in a clash with the Tigers on Saturday. The report could not be confirmed.

TV stars blacklisted for backing anti-Ershad protests

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The state-run television station has blacklisted 11 prominent actors who have supported opposition demands for President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's resignation, an opposition-backed cultural group said Sunday.

A source at the television station refused to comment on the reported blacklisting, but he said three TV dramas had been postponed because of the absence of several actors. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

Other government officials declined to comment or could not be located.

The United Cultural Forum issued a statement that the 11 actors had been banned from appearing in any television programmes as of Saturday. It said the actors include three of Bangladesh's most popular TV stars: Ferdousi Majumder, Ali Zaker and his wife Sarah Zaker.

The forum, an alliance of a half-dozen major cultural groups, claimed more than 200 radio and television performers have refused to work for the past six weeks to show their support for the campaign against Gen. Ershad.

Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, the chief opposition leaders, launched their campaign of strikes and rallies against Gen. Ershad on Nov. 10. They have vowed to continue the frequently violent protests until Gen. Ershad resigns from the presidency he took in a 1982 bloodless coup.

The 57-year-old former army general dissolved parliament on Dec. 6 and promised to hold new legislative elections by March 5. But he refuses to step aside himself.

Gen. Ershad declared a state of emergency on Nov. 27 and banned all political activities, but recently has shown an increasing willingness to deal with the opposition. The strike has virtually paralysed economic life in his impoverished nation.

Opposition sources said Saturday that the government was conducting indirect talks with secondary opposition leaders.

"We have ... a lot of very complicated, technical barriers to overcome," he said. "I think one barometer, one test of the seriousness of this candidacy is whether we are able to do that."

Ms. Hasina, head of the Awami League Party, and Mrs. Zia, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, could not be contacted for comments on the reported talks. Both women have emphatically refused to deal with Gen. Ershad's government.

Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first president of this nation that achieved independence in a civil war with Pakistan in 1971.

Time names Gorbachev as Man of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine chose Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as its "man of the year" on Saturday, calling him "a ruthless political opportunist" who was yet a "symbol of hope for a new kind of Soviet Union."

Time said Mr. Gorbachev "has reinvented the idea of a Soviet leader" since coming to power after Yuri Andropov.

"Virtually everything about his country and its place in world affairs seems less ponderous, less opaque than it did before he became general secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR," said Time senior writer Donald Morrison.

The magazine annually designates the person, people or thing it deems to have most significantly influenced the course of world events in the past year, for better or worse.

Morrison called Mr. Gorbachev "a dedicated Communist, a ruthless political opportunist."

"In 1987 he became something more, a symbol of a new kind of Soviet union: More open, more concerned with the welfare of its citizens and less with the spread of its ideology and system abroad."

"For fanning that hope, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is Time's man of the year for 1987," Morrison said.

"He could be the most dangerous adversary the U.S. and its allies have faced in decades — or the most constructive," Time said in its cover article.

"Molded by famine and war, promised a measure of hope after (Soviet leader Joseph) Stalin's demise and then abruptly disillusioned, Mr. Gorbachev is the sort of man who would willingly drag his country back into the dark days of repression, economic hardship and international obloquy."

The 61st Man of the Year chosen by the magazine since 1927, Mr. Gorbachev was the fourth Soviet leader to be chosen. In 1983, General Secretary Andropov shared the cover with President Reagan.

Nikita Khrushchev was Man of the Year in 1957 and Stalin was chosen twice, in 1939 and 1942.

Time said it had also considered President Reagan, who had also been Man of the Year in 1980. Marine Lieutenant Col. Oliver North, who played a key role in the Iran-contra affair, and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his Central American peace plan.

In a broadcast on Saturday night marking the 19th year of the founding of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, an unidentified spokesman said the establishment of a rebel government around the country "is not far off."

In the United Cultural Forum's statement, the 11 actors had been banned from appearing in any television programmes as of Saturday. It said the actors include three of Bangladesh's most popular TV stars: Ferdousi Majumder, Ali Zaker and his wife Sarah Zaker.

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Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, the chief opposition leaders, launched their campaign of strikes and rallies against Gen. Ershad on Nov. 10. They have vowed to continue the frequently violent protests until Gen. Ershad resigns from the presidency he took in a 1982 bloodless coup.

The 57-year-old former army general dissolved parliament on Dec. 6 and promised to hold new legislative elections by March 5. But he refuses to step aside himself.

Gen. Ershad declared a state of emergency on Nov. 27 and banned all political activities, but recently has shown an increasing willingness to deal with the opposition. The strike has virtually paralysed economic life in his impoverished nation.

Opposition sources said Saturday that the government was conducting indirect talks with secondary opposition leaders.

"We have ... a lot of very complicated, technical barriers to overcome," he said. "I think one barometer, one test of the seriousness of this candidacy is whether we are able to do that."

Ms. Hasina, head of the Awami League Party, and Mrs. Zia, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, could not be contacted for comments on the reported talks. Both women have emphatically refused to deal with Gen. Ershad's government.

Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first president of this nation that achieved independence in a civil war with Pakistan in 1971.

Barcelona bomb kills U.S. Marine, injures 9

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — A U.S. Marine died early on Sunday from wounds suffered in a grenade attack on a bar in Barcelona, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

Nine other U.S. servicemen were hurt in Saturday night's attack on the bar Iruna, a popular meeting point for American servicemen on shore leave.

Ronald Strong, from Revere, Pennsylvania, died in hospital after emergency surgery to remove shrapnel from his abdomen, lung and kidney, U.S. embassy spokesman Robert Meade said.

Spanish state radio reported that two Catalan separatist groups — Terra Lliure (free land) and the little-known Catalan Red Liberation Army — said they carried out the attack.

One victim had an operation to remove shrapnel from his foot but none of the injured was in danger.

Earlier reports said six were wounded, but Mr. Meade said some of those injured went back for treatment to their ships, the U.S.S. Thorn and U.S.S. Beery, and had not been included in police counts.

Barcelona, host city for the 1992 summer Olympics, is the capital of the autonomous Catalonia region in north eastern Spain.

which has a distinct language and culture.

Both Terra Lliure and the Catalan Red Liberation Army have said they were responsible for a bomb explosion at the U.S. consulate in Barcelona last October which injured eight Spaniards.

A local official said earlier he could not rule out a link between the latest attack and talks between Madrid and Washington on reducing the U.S. military presence in Spain.

Under the present defence treaty between the two countries, the United States can station up to 12,500 troops at four bases in Spain.

Meanwhile Barcelona police suspected Catalan separatists tried to blow up a replica of the ship in which Christopher Columbus sailed to America in 1492.

Police said they defused on Sunday 20 kilogrammes of explosives of the kind used by Terra Lliure which had been packed in a pressure cooker and left on board the Santa Maria.

The attackers fled when a police patrol searched the vessel after reports that unidentified people had sneaked aboard before dawn.

The ship is anchored in the port of Barcelona as a tourist attraction.

COLUMNS 7&8

Soldier jailed after lover dies

PEKING (R) — A young soldier who backed out of a suicide pact at the last moment and left his lover to die has been jailed for 12 years, a Shanghai newspaper reported. The lovers agreed to die together after his commanding officer refused 20-year-old Zhai Dongya permission to marry. They went to a mountainous area near the girl's home in Liaoning province and separated briefly to find a secluded place to die, the Xinmin Evening News reported on Saturday. Zhai returned to find his lover — named only as Tang — on the brink of death after taking sleeping tablets. Unable to follow suit, he dragged her into a wood, shrouding her body with his greatcoat and undergrowth. He later confessed to his parents and was arrested. A court in Shenyang found him guilty of murder.

China could lose three-quarters of forests

PEKING (R) — China will lose nearly three-quarters of its forests by the year 2000 if deforestation continues at the present rate, the official New China News Agency has quoted a vice-minister as saying. Vice-Minister of Forestry Liu Guangyun said a meeting in Peking that most of the country's state-run forestry bureaus would have no woodland left for exploitation unless the trend was reversed. Local officials must step up measures to stop uncontrolled tree-felling, he added. A month-long forest fire in May destroyed more than one million hectares of forest in north east China, leading to the dismissal of Forestry Minister Yang Zhong for alleged negligence. China's official media said this year large areas of woodland were being destroyed by acid rain in south west China.

10 arrested for bribing officials

PEKING (AP) — The manager of a construction firm and nine other people have been arrested for paying bribes totalling 200,000 yuan (\$54,000) to government officials, a state-run daily has said. The China Youth News said that since 1985 Luo Tianfu, former manager of a construction firm in Chengdu, south west China, and the others gave bribes to 10 government units. They gave 28,000 yuan (\$7,570) to an official in the provincial Commercial Department to obtain contracts for four projects. They also bribed with 10,000 yuan (\$2,700) the leader of a real estate office, allowing them to buy for 800,000 yuan (\$216,000) a piece of land in downtown Chengdu worth several million yuan. Luo made illegal profits of at least 100,000 yuan (\$27,000) by paying an official of the city design institute 10,000 yuan (\$2,700) so he could build houses in violation of government regulations, the report said. It noted that 80 per cent of an 86-member advisory group to the construction firm are Communist Party members. The report did not say if anyone was arrested for receiving bribes. Bribery and other forms of official corruption have become a serious problem as China loosens controls over the economy and encourages private enterprise and market-oriented reforms.

Women died 10 years before discovery

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Two women whose remains were discovered last month in the home they shared with a relative had died 10 years earlier, authorities say. The bodies were found on Nov. 20 after the death of Carl Forchee, 77, who had kept the remains of his sister and aunt in their bedrooms following their deaths, authorities said. Officials have ruled that Forchee's aunt, Charlotte Arlington, died in October 1977 at age 95, and his sister, Agnes Forchee, died a few months later at age 84, coroner's investigator Charles Green has said. Authorities have been unable to determine the causes of the two women's deaths, Green said. Ms. Forchee is believed to have died of a heart attack or stroke, he said.

Army enlists plastic soldiers, canvas tanks

BELTSVILLE, Maryland (AP) — The U.S. Army, returning to an age-old strategy used extensively by the Soviet military, is increasing its use of decoys and fake targets in hopes of outsmarting an enemy's modern weapons. Decoys ranging from canvas tanks to plastic soldiers could make the army in battle seem twice as big as it really is. The two- and three-dimensional tanks canvas tanks made at TVI Corp's plant outside Washington look real both to the naked eye and to heat-seeking thermal targeting systems used at night. An unassembled front-view M-1 weighs about 25 pounds and collapses into a duffle bag. In less than three minutes, one man can assemble it and plug in a generator to warm up its thermal "signature." With a tape recorder and speakers a pair of soldiers can sound like an entire tank battalion. A fake M-1 costs about \$3,500. The real thing costs almost ten times as much. "Deception really is the second goal," said TVI Vice President Stephen P. "Decoys are credible targets... they allow the real vehicles to move around" and increase the survival rate in battle. The army has about 4,000 real M-1 tanks and plans to acquire an equal number of the fakes, said Maj. Andrew Fallon, of the army's budget office. Deception has been a key element in military strategy since the Trojan Horse.

High yen makes Takeshita millionaire

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's net worth rose to more than one million U.S. dollars this year, partly due to the yen's appreciation, official figures revealed on Friday. His personal property, including land, savings and securities, were worth 134 million yen (\$1.04 million), an official at the prime minister's office said. He said this figure was up 13 million (\$101,000) from February last year, about a month after Mr. Takeshita was appointed finance minister. The dollar then stood 192 yen, compared with about 129 on Friday in Tokyo. Kyodo News Service estimated Mr. Takeshita's real worth at about one billion yen (\$7.7 million) because much of his land and securities are valued at cost.

Louis Gosset Jr. marries actress

TEL AVIV (AP) — Oscar-winning actor Louis Gosset Jr. married an American soap opera actress in a Christmas Day ceremony attended by a small group of family and friends. "I never thought at this stage in my life this could happen," publicist Barbara Barkay quoted Gosset as saying. "You get used to life being just OK, and then suddenly something like this happens and you realise how much you were missing all those years." Gosset's bride, Cyndi James Reese, in her 30s, plays Lexy, an undercover cop, in the American television serial *Days of Our Lives*. She also sings the opening song in television's *Rich Little Show*. Gosset, 50, has two sons, Satie, 13, from a previous marriage, and Sharron, 10, adopted by Gosset three years ago. The couple was married in a Baptist ceremony at a hotel in the resort town of Herzlia, north of Tel Aviv. Gosset flew in his aunt's mother and 90-year-old grandmother to attend his wedding. Another guest at the ceremony was Bobby Angelle, a friend who has been Gosset's stuntman in movies for the last 13 years. Gosset, who won the 1982 Academy Award for his supporting role in *An Officer And A Gentleman*, also played the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in a recent television miniseries. The couple will return Sunday to Haifa, where the filming of *Iron Eagle 2* resumes. They will return to Los Angeles in ten weeks, when filming in Israel is scheduled to be completed.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ7Q3 ♠954 ♣A102
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
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